

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to drawing FIGS. 1, 2, and 3. These sheets replace the original sheets including drawings FIGS. 1, 2, and 3.

REMARKS

This is in response to the Final Rejection in the Office Action mailed December 20, 2005.

Claims 1 through 7, 9, 10 and 12 through 31 are currently pending in the application.

Claims 13 through 31 are withdrawn from consideration a being directed to non-elected inventions.

Claims 1 through 7, 9, 10 and 12 stand rejected.

Applicants propose to amend claim 1, and respectfully request reconsideration of the application as proposed to be amended herein.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Anticipation Rejections

Anticipation Rejection Based on U.S. Patent 6,102,023 to Ishiwata et al.

Claims 1, 9, 10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ishiwata et al. (U.S. Patent 6,102,023). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as hereinafter set forth.

Applicants assert that a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Brothers v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Applicants assert that the Tieber reference does not and cannot anticipate the claimed invention of presently amended independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 because the Tieber reference does not identically describe, either expressly or inherently, each and every element of the claimed invention in as complete detail as contained in the claim.

After carefully considering the cited prior art, the rejections, and the Examiner's comments, Applicants have amended the claimed invention to clearly distinguish over the cited prior art.

Turning to the cited prior art, the Tieber reference describes an arrangement to support a substrate during a dicing process. The arrangement includes a nest having a first nest side and a second nest side. The nest includes a grid which defines at least one nest opening. The nest

opening has an opening area that is smaller than an area of a die diced from the substrate. The arrangement further includes a vacuum retainer plate having thereon at least one vacuum pedestal. The vacuum pedestal protrudes above the first nest side of the nest when the vacuum pedestal is disposed through the nest opening from the second nest side to support the substrate on the upper surface and lift the substrate off the first nest side when the substrate is positioned on the nest with the first substrate side facing the first nest side and when the nest is mated with the vacuum retainer plate.

The claimed invention of presently amended independent claim 1 is directed to “[t]he combination of a semiconductor substrate singulation saw and a chuck for holding a substrate comprising . . . a support; a saw attached to the support, the saw having at least two blades connected thereto supported above a table by the support and oriented to cut mutually parallel paths in a surface of a semiconductor substrate positioned on the table, at least one of the saw blades horizontally translatable on said support and the other saw blade having a fixed horizontal position on said support; and a chuck having at least one cutting pedestal located thereon mounted on the table, the chuck for holding the substrate during cutting thereof by the saw, the chuck translatable in a horizontal direction and a transverse direction in relation to the saw.”

Applicants assert that the Tieber reference does not identically describe the elements of the claimed invention of presently amended independent claim 1 calling for “a support; a saw attached to the support, the saw having at least two blades supported above a table by the support and oriented to cut mutually parallel paths in a surface of a semiconductor substrate positioned on the table, at least one of the saw blades horizontally translatable on said support and the other saw blade having a fixed horizontal position on said support” and “a chuck having at least one cutting pedestal located thereon mounted on the table, the chuck for holding the substrate during cutting thereof by the saw, the chuck translatable in a horizontal direction and a transverse direction in relation to the saw.” Applicants assert that the Tieber reference contains no such identical description of the elements of the claimed invention whatsoever. In contrast to the claimed invention, the Tieber reference has two saws, each having one blade.

Therefore, presently amended independent claim 1 is allowable as well as dependent claims 2 through 7, 9, 10, and 12 therefrom.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Obviousness Rejections

Obviousness Rejection Based on U.S. Patent 6,102,023 to Ishiwata et al. in view of U.S. Patent 6,187,654 B1 to Tieber

Claims 2-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishiwata et al. (U.S. Patent 6,102,023) in view of Tieber (U.S. Patent 6,187,654 B1). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as hereinafter set forth.

Applicants further assert that to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103 three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Third, the cited prior art reference must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. Furthermore, the suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on Applicants' disclosure.

Applicants assert that any combination of the Tieber reference and the Ishiwata et al. reference does not and cannot establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103 regarding the claimed invention of presently amended independent claim 1 because, at the least, any such combination fails to teach or suggest all of the claim limitations.

After carefully considering the cited prior art, the rejections, and the Examiner's comments, Applicants have amended the claimed invention to clearly distinguish over the cited prior art.

Turning to the cited prior art, the Tieber reference teaches or suggests an arrangement to support a substrate during a dicing process. The arrangement includes a nest having a first nest side and a second nest side. The nest includes a grid which defines at least one nest opening. The nest opening has an opening area that is smaller than an area of a die diced from the substrate. The arrangement further includes a vacuum retainer plate having thereon at least one

vacuum pedestal. The vacuum pedestal protrudes above the first nest side of the nest when the vacuum pedestal is disposed through the nest opening from the second nest side to support the substrate on the upper surface and lift the substrate off the first nest side when the substrate is positioned on the nest with the first substrate side facing the first nest side and when the nest is mated with the vacuum retainer plate.

The Ishiwata et al. reference teaches or suggests a cutting apparatus comprising a chuck table for holding a workpiece, and first and second cutting apparatus each including a spinle unit having a blade attached thereto. The cutting apparatus are each movable above a stationary chuck.

Applicants assert that any combination of the Tieber reference and the Ishiwata et al. reference does not teach or suggest the claim limitations of presently amended independent claim 1 calling for “a support; a saw attached to the support, the saw having at least two blades connected thereto supported above a table by the support and oriented to cut mutually parallel paths in a surface of a semiconductor substrate positioned on the table, at least one of the saw blades horizontally translatable on said support and the other saw blade having a fixed horizontal position on said support” and “a chuck having at least one cutting pedestal located thereon mounted on the table, the chuck for holding the substrate during cutting thereof by the saw, the chuck translatable in a horizontal direction and a transverse direction in relation to the saw.” Applicants assert that neither the Tieber reference nor the Ishiwata et al. reference, nor any combination of the Tieber reference and the Ishiwata et al. reference contains no such teachings or suggestions of the claim limitations the claimed invention whatsoever.

Therefore, presently amended independent claim 1 is allowable as well as dependent claims 2 through 7, 9, 10, and 12 therefrom.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENTS

The proposed amendments to claim 1 above should be entered by the Examiner because the amendments are supported by the as-filed specification and drawings and do not add any new matter to the application to clearly comply with the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 132. Further, Applicants request entry of this amendment because the amendment does not raise new issues, require a further search, and places the application in condition for allowance. Finally, if the Examiner determines that the amendments do not place the application in condition for allowance, entry is respectfully requested upon filing of a Notice of Appeal herein.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1 through 7, 9, 10 and 12 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner determine that additional issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, he is respectfully invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

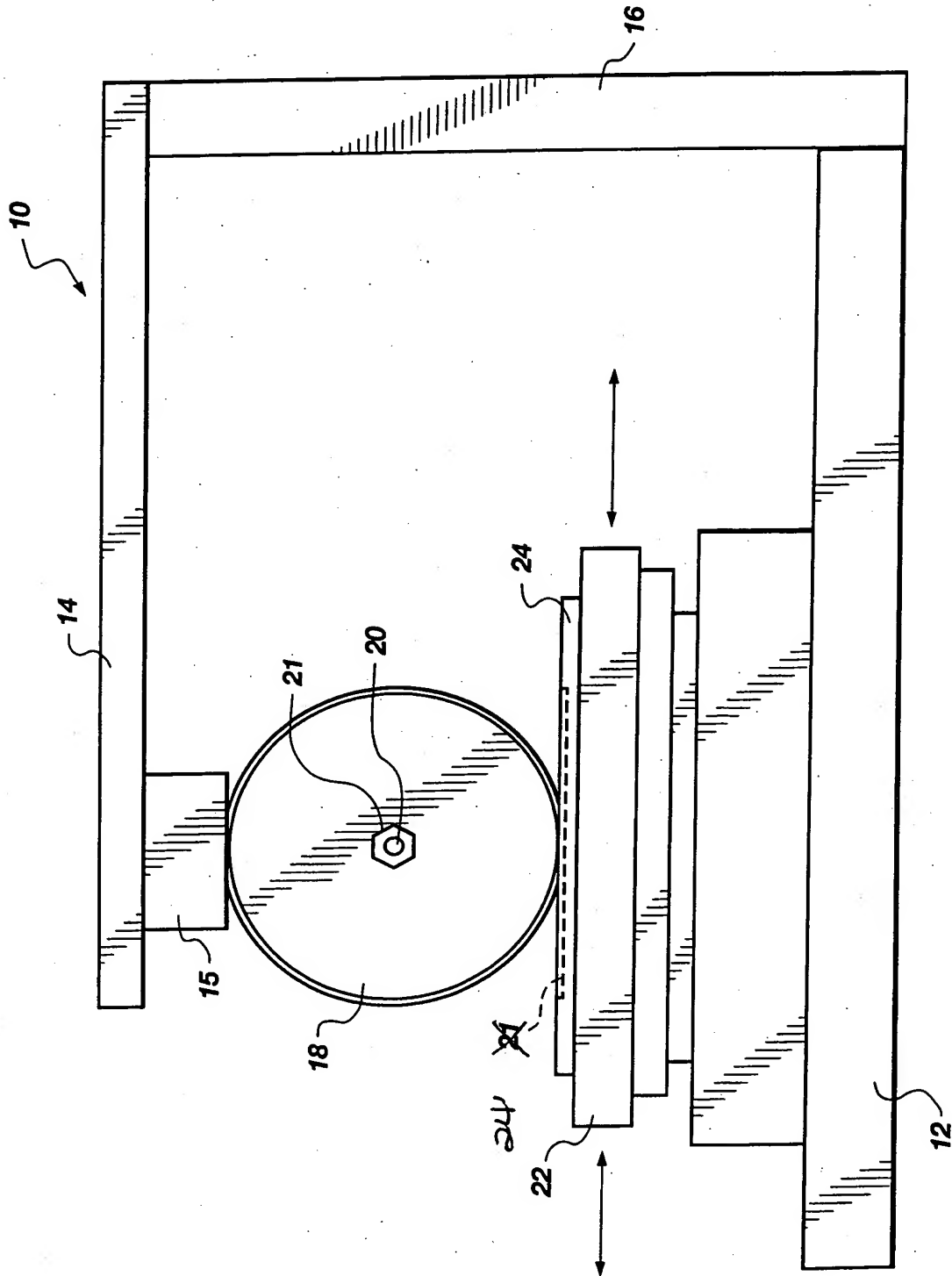


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Attachment: Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

Date: February 17, 2006
JRD/ljb:lmh

Document in ProLaw



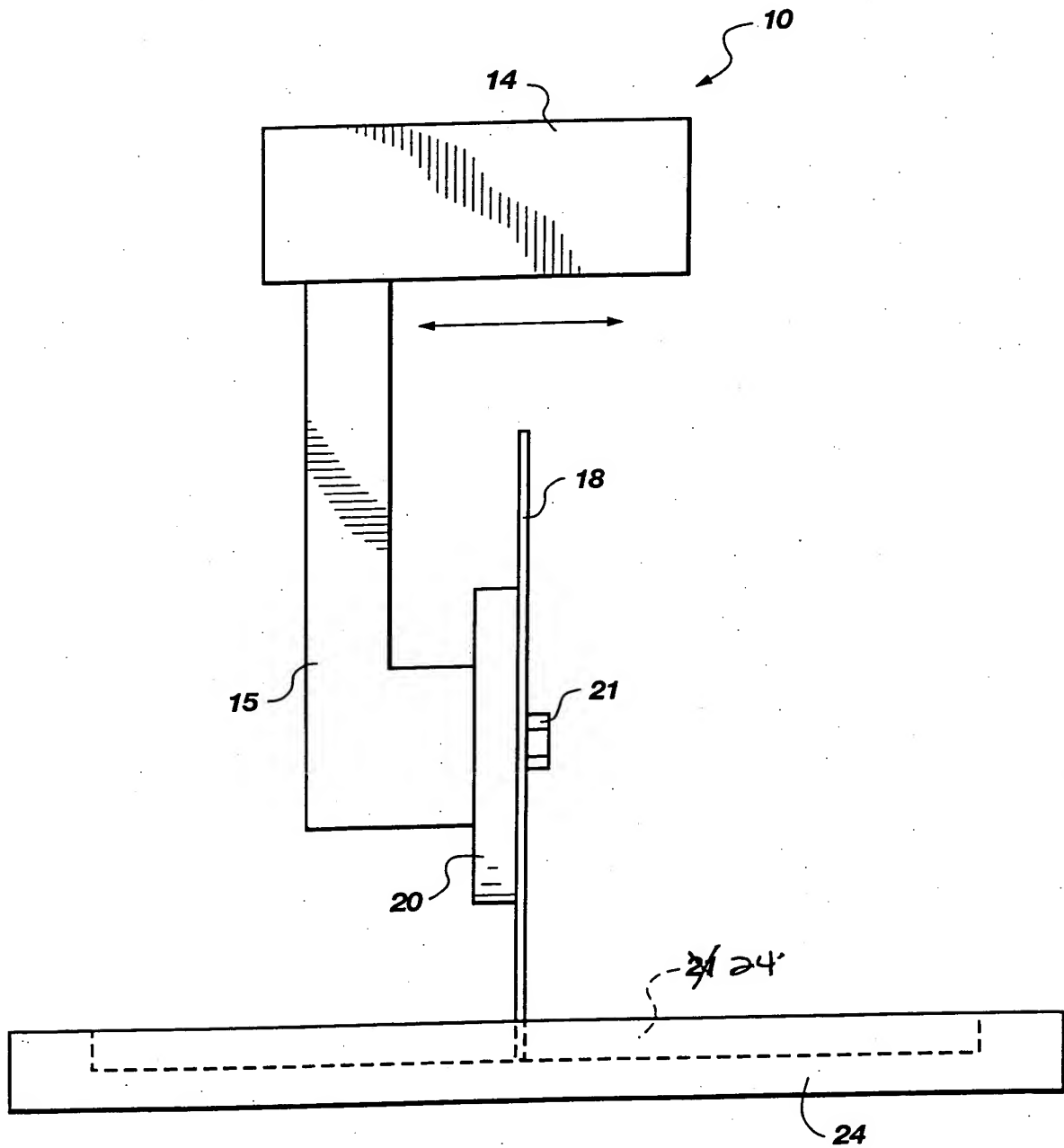


Fig. 2

TITLE: GROUP ENCAPSULATED DICING CHUCK

Inventor: Farnworth et al.

Serial No.: 10/643,455

Docket No.: 2269-4245.1US

ANNOTATED SHEET SHOWING CHANGES

3/13

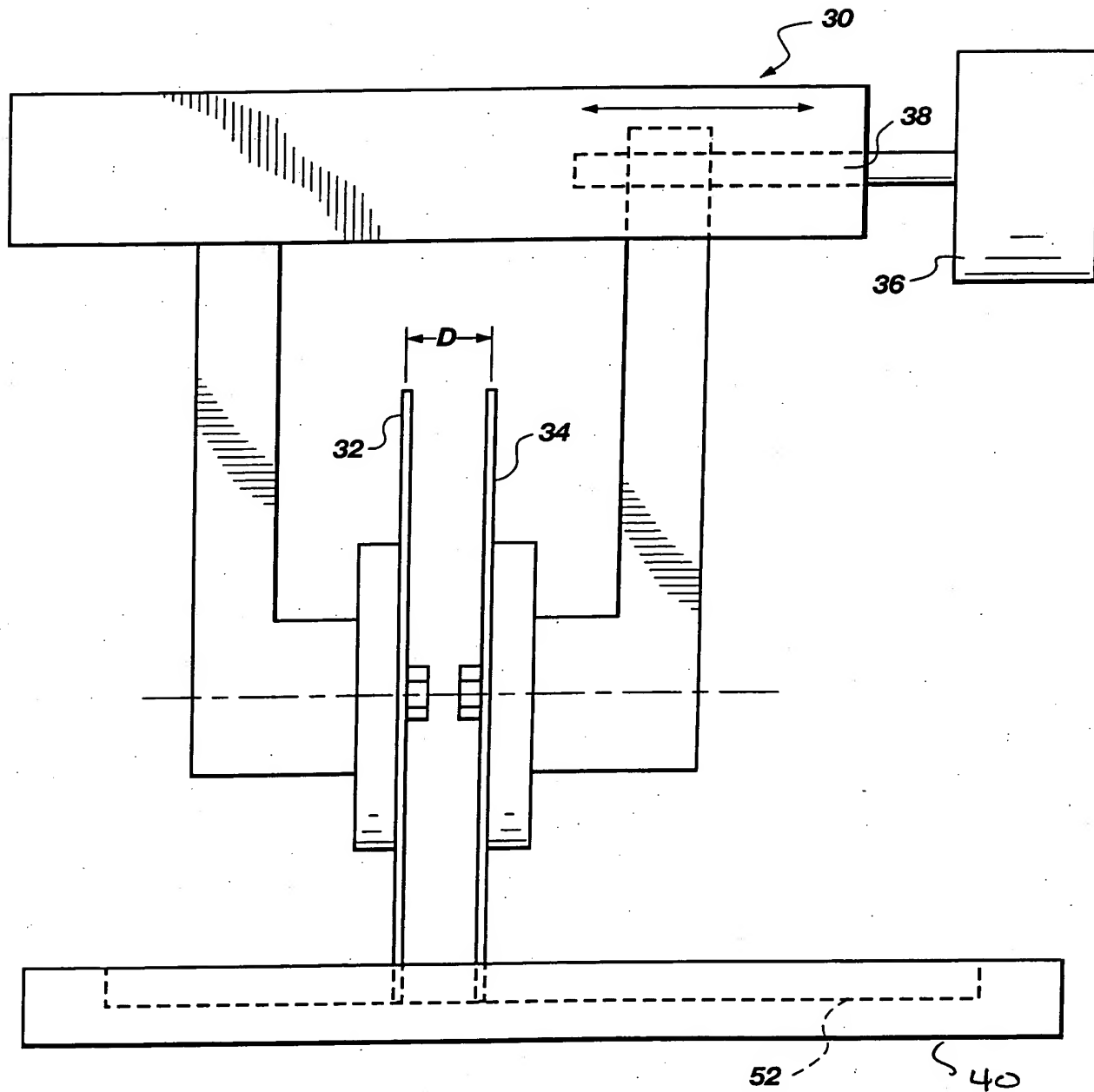


Fig. 3